

**Permaculture Design Course in the Darjeeling Hills
Mineral Springs, Darjeeling**

14 to 28 November 2010

The course fees, inclusive of training material, food and lodge:

International Candidates Rs. 15000:00

Indian Nationals residing outside Darjeeling but working in India Rs. 11000:00

Indian Darjeeling Resident Rs. 8000:00

The course fee does not include travel to the training venue.

Training venue “Mineral Springs, Dabaipani, Darjeeling”

Mineral Springs Dabaipani is an internationally certified organic area and fair-trade labeled collective of 450 small farmers since 2002. The farmers have come under the Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikas Sanstha since 1996. The collective has been marketing small farmers organic tea in the international market, which is grown as a polyculture crop.

The participants will have home stay accommodations facilities with the members of Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikas Sanstha.

Trainers: Rico Zook <ricoclimate.com> Guest Instructor: Ameli <www.beeja.net> and members of DLR Prerna.

For further details

**Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna
c/o Hayden Hall Complex,
42 Ladenla Road,
Darjeeling 734 101,
West Bengal, India.
Phone Number 91 354 2255894
dlrprerna@yahoo.com, darjeelingprerna@gmail.com**

A working knowledge of English is required by the participant. We do not look for academic qualifications for the course, except an interest to be part of a sustainable lifestyle and be the change you want to see in the world.

NB: ** DLR Prerna and Rico reserves the right to admit candidates to the course. Candidates will be notified of their participation on receipt of the completely filled application form.**

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE in the Darjeeling Hills

Please fill in BLOCK

1. Name of Candidate:

2. Permanent Postal Address/Telephone/Email:

3. Date of Birth:

4. Sex:

5. Nationality:

6. Present Occupation and Roles and Responsibilities:

7. Any previous experience on Permaculture:

8. Expectations of the course:

9: I wish to pay Rs. 15000:00 / Rs. 11000:00 / Rs. 8000:00 by CASH/DD datedpayable to “Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna”.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTACH INFORMATION BEYOND THIS PAGE
KINDLY FILL THIS FORM IN MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT**

Permaculture Design Course Description

Permaculture is a design system to create regenerative, sustainable systems. Envisioned over 25 years ago by Bill Mollison and Dan Holmgren, from Australia, it has now spread to over 120 countries. Though its conception was as a land based system, its effectiveness has moved it into urban settings and to being applied in various social, political, and economic environments.

Permaculture was created through the synthesis of many design systems, with the emphasis on nature as the penultimate one. Similarly, the insights and value of traditional and indigenous practices and knowledge are acknowledged along with the necessity of molding these with our current understandings and the appropriate technologies of today's world. What Permaculture seeks to do is to create three-dimensional designs that are site specific and sustainable. By bringing together elements (orchard, water system, farmer, cow, etc.), techniques (organic framing, natural building, etc.) and strategies (microclimate, relative placement, etc.) a system is designed or altered based on regenerative relationships. It is these regenerative, beneficial relationships that give a system complexity, three dimensionality, and thus, resiliency.

The world can be looked at as the convergence of many different flows. From 'natural' (wind, water, soil, etc.) to human (social, resources, transportation, etc.) to invisible (economic, information, etc.) which interact and create patterns. These flows form our world. Recognizing this, Permaculture teaches Pattern Literacy and Pattern Application. This, along with Sector Analysis (site specific flow mapping), Zonation (a tool for structuring time) and other techniques and tools, Permaculture focuses on creating regenerative relationships that are the key to resilient, sustainable systems.

From its inception Permaculture has quickly spread to over One hundred and twenty countries where farms and other sites are successfully applying its' ideas, techniques and strategies. As further testament to its applicability, Permaculture is now being applied in many urban and suburban areas. In many developed countries these applications hold much promise for dealing with the many issues associated with mass populations.

Permaculture in the last few years has been moving into the invisible structures. In the United States a Permaculture credit union has been formed and 'green' investment firms are using Permaculture principles and ideas to create resilient, sustainable investment systems. Environmentalists and social activists are using Permaculture to give depth and complexity to their approaches to many issues we are dealing with today. These applications are possible because Permaculture is a design system that focuses on relationship and not so much on object.

Permaculture is a multi-faceted, in depth design system that will help us create appropriate, site-specific designs that are both sustainable and regenerative.

Permaculture principles are a list of attitudes, approaches, and actions that are practical and not system specific. These along with certain tools and techniques allow for a holistic approach and interaction with any type of system. As a tool of analysis it is an excellent way to look at existing programs, strategies, and interventions to assess their interactions, linkages, and success'. It is a way to reach an understanding of the various influences and flows involved in a system, be it self help groups, village, or organization. Second, it provides insights and principles by which to intervene or interact with a system. As there is neither a truly independent system, nor sterile 'environment' this aspect is of significant importance.

Thirdly, as we have already stated, Permaculture is an excellent approach for designing resilient, site-specific systems, be it disaster preparedness, HIV/AIDS, or women's empowerment.

It is important to understand that Permaculture is not so much about giving you new and improved ideas, techniques, and strategies, though there is some of that. What Permaculture does is allow for a deeper understanding of the situation at hand and, with its principles and strategies, a more holistic, effective way to interact with or design a system. What Permaculture offers are skills and principles by which we build our awareness of why or why not something was successful. Through this insight we can build on what is successful and modify others to become more successful.

Stepping up another level, Permaculture is an excellent way to weave together the different parts of an organization so that a unity and synergy can be created. In this way unforeseen benefits and ease will raise within the system.

This workshop will present Permaculture with all of these applications in mind. We will focus on land systems with as much hands on work and examples as possible. In addition, many discussions and examples will be explored of possible applications in what are called the 'Invisible Structures', the social, cultural, political, and economic structures that shape much of our world today.

Subjects will include:

- Permaculture Ethics and Principles
- Pattern Literacy and Application (physical and invisible)
- Energy and Flows
- Sector Analysis and Zonation
- Water; Harvesting, Holding, and Recycling
- Soil, Plants, and Environments
- Agriculture; From Your Doorstep to the World
- Buildings
- The Design Process
- Urban Permaculture
- Permaculture in the Developing Countries
- Permaculture and Organizations

This workshop will culminate with several groups doing a real life design projects that will be relevant to the site of the workshop. Not only will the teaching be about Permaculture, but it will also model it by its structure and the environment we create together in the course.

This workshop will contribute to the enrichment of its site and each of its participants. With the goal of having half international students and half local students this workshop will not only be an opportunity to learn about Permaculture, it will also offer an opportunity to understand we can create a regenerative, sustainable world together.

The person attending the Permaculture Design Course will not only gain theoretical and practical knowledge on Permaculture at the end of the workshop but will be handed a Permaculture Design Course Certificate. This certificate will enable the participant to be a certified Permaculture Practitioner. This course has been specially designed for the many enthusiasts who are unable to invest two weeks at one go in the East Nepal and Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas to get certified.

Instructor: Richard Zook

Certified Permaculture Instructor and Practitioner <www.ricoclimate.com>

Permaculture designer, teacher, consultant, planner and land restoration expert Richard Zook is uniquely equipped and experienced to create designs and projects that engender efficient and productive relationships between people and nature. The results of his more than two decades of work have been empowering to communities on two continents, restorative of natural habitats and ecosystems, and inspiring to environmentalists, his students and colleagues.

In addition to academic and professional credentials, Mr. Zook has spent more than 25 years living in nature, including long-term residencies in California's Yosemite National Park, the demanding Sangria de Cristo Mountains of Northern New Mexico, and as a homesteader in Northern California wilderness. For more than a decade as Land Manager for the Lama Foundation, a spiritual community and retreat center North of Taos, NM, Mr. Zook designed and transformed the rugged, semiarid high-altitude site that had been decimated by wildfire into one of beauty and productivity. Using perm culture practices and a lifetime of observation and interpretation of the natural world and how to create human harmony with it, he has built one of the most visible and successful perm culture demonstration and teaching sites in North America. It is a model of design integrating the needs, resources and yields of community and nature in proactive and abundant ways with respectful and restorative impacts on the environment.

While at Lama, Mr. Zook implemented large- and small-scale systems including water catchment and storage, food production, orchards, trails, spring water delivery, gray water treatment, natural building citing and integration, and other projects. He was lead permaculture designer and instructor for internationally recognized Build Here Now and Grow Here Now colloquia that brought together hundreds of permaculturists and natural builders from around the world.

In recent years, Mr. Zook has concentrated half of each year on building bridges, exchange and relationships with NGOs and communities in India using permaculture as common language and solutions-oriented methodology. In November of 2004 he taught at the Resilient Villages workshop in Nasik, India, as well as presenting permaculture design in Darjeeling and Rajasthan. His continuing work in India has expanded to encompass nearly a dozen workshops and courses plus design and community consulting in Kalimpong, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Darjeeling, Orissa, and Bangalore. As a result, there are now ongoing and lasting relationships that support community-directed development of infrastructure, agriculture, and education.

Mr. Zook is a graduate of Sonoma State University, from which he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies focused on land restoration, with minors in Biology and Philosophy.

**Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna (DLR Prerna) <darjeelingprerna.org>:
2010**

DLR Prerna is a Darjeeling based NGO working in the Darjeeling Hills since 1996.

Vision Statement

Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna believes in a world that sees the need to live as one family where the environment is preserved and protected, where conscious efforts are made to remove unjust structures while striving to build a just and humane society.

Mission statement

Our mission is to build sustainable human communities in the Darjeeling hills and the adjoining areas by promoting peoples participation, gender equality and living in harmony with the environment.

Goals

1. Promote, facilitate and strengthen people's organizations.
2. Promote organic agriculture and appropriate technology
3. Undertake Development and Environment Education with educational institutions and community-based organizations.
4. Provide support to other organizations.
5. Undertake research, development and dissemination on developmental issues pertinent to the Darjeeling hills.

DLR Prerna has undertaken community development of Harsing Dabaipani and Yangkhoo Busties(Villages), Darjeeling. Mineral Spring Sanjukta Vikas Sanstha (MSSVS) has been established by the communities with 440 families as members in 1996. It is the first certified organic small farmers in Darjeeling, undertaking poly-culture farming and selling tea as Mineral Springs Tea in the international fair trade market. For this experience MSSVS and DLR Prerna is mentioned in the World Resources 2005.

2 members of DLR Prerna are accredited organic certifying inspectors with Institute of Market Ecology India specializing on small farmers.

DLR Prerna has conducted and been part of researches with specific references to the issues of the Darjeeling Hills including the Area and Issue Profile of Darjeeling and Sikkim and Village Level Planning on Developing a Transboundary Conservation Landscape in the Kangchenjunga Complex – Senchel & Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuaries.

DLR Prerna has also managed and implemented all the programmes of Anugyalaya DDSSS from 2001 primarily focusing on small farmers organics and community based disaster preparedness. In 2006 November DLR Prerna phased over Anugyalaya DDSSS as we feel the capacity of the organization has been enhanced to manage her own programme.

DLR Prerna has been instrumental in community and student campaigns like:

- Clean and Green Darjeeling
- Campaign for the judicious use of plastics
- Clean Darjeeling Clean River Rungeet – focus on Solid Waste Management with the Darjeeling Municipality

DLR Prerna has been a founder member of the Darjeeling NGO Network, a network of 11 NGOs in the Darjeeling Hills who come together to share expertise and resources and have in the recent times undertaken the campaign, 'Conserve Water Reduce Your Waste'.

In the past two years DLR Prerna has been initiated a community-based sustainable

livelihoods option conservation efforts with 5 villages in the fringes of the Singalila National Park, Darjeeling.

DLR Prerna has been partnering with Tea Promoters India enhancing capacities of representatives of 6 Tea Gardens and 4 small farmer collectives on Fair-trade Standards in the past 3 years. Representatives of the tea gardens and small farmer collectives are also undergoing courses on permaculture.

DLR Prerna is pioneering Permaculture Design Courses in the Darjeeling Hills, offering certified basic course with Mr. Richard Zook as the trainer since 2005. Shorter term courses for farmers are being facilitated by Rico and the DLR Prerna team in the local language.

Guest Instructor: Ameli

Permaculture/Lifestyle Designer, Spiritual Guide & Therapist, Community Builder, Spirit Medium < www.beeja.net>

Through constant self-work, introspection and embodiment, Ameli supports others who desire to live a more authentic life in tune with nature, seeking their highest potential and true calling. She acts as a focusing lens to tune herself and others towards their passion. A powerful manifestor, she has the ability to take the scattered light of potential and shape it into the laser beam of manifestation. Ameli always finds herself on the pioneering trail. Through her work in varied arenas Ameli has found herself on the cutting edge of fashion, technology, music and the sustainable lifestyle movement. Her travels around the world for business and pleasure have given her a range of multi-cultural experiences that can only come with having been 'there'. She is a lifestyle designer in every sense of the word.

Aligning personal values to business goals and methods, helping others find their self-purpose is Ameli's primary agenda. She is a uniter, networker and way-seer for her generation.

As a business consultant Ameli has worked with some of the world's leading corporations, helping establish their first digital footprints, corporations such as Panasonic, MTV Interactive, and Sega. She now works with socially responsible clients, NGO's and individuals. Her specialty lies in inspiring people to realize their dreams and take them from conception to fruition.

Ameli's alternative toolset is a combination of her past life memories and personal studies with various teachers around the world. Her most important mentors were the often silent, yet potent teachings of Enlightened Masters, Mystics, Shamans and Tantric practitioners. Many of her personal practices were developed and taught by Higher Dimensional Beings in a deep trance state. She has spent the last seven years doing personal research and fine-tuning this channeled information into practical applications in order to serve others on their soul journey and re-connect people to Mother Earth.

Ameli holds a Bachelors Degree in Culture, Ecology and Sustainable Communities with a concentration on Consciousness, Healing and Ecology. She holds certificates in the following modalities: Geotran Field Integrations, Life Purpose Coaching, Inner Child Work, Breath Work/Re-Birthing, Permaculture Design and Biodynamic Farming. She has studied and developed her skills in the psychic arts and esoteric practices under the guidance and direction of Native American Shamans, Hungarian Mystics and a Mayan Oracle.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Ameli has been residing in Mysore, South India since 2006. She works with individuals and groups to create sustainable livelihoods for her community and the generations to come.

Ameli currently works with Dr, Newton Kondaveti in Hyderabad creating Life University, a hub of spiritual education whose aim is to guide people on their own path of enlightenment. She is transforming 108 acres of depleted soil into a fully self-sustaining eco community.
www.lifeuniversityglobal.org